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# 'BIG 4' CHIEFS AND R.R. HEADS DEVISE TRUCE

Settlement of Eight Hour Controversy Possible Within Two Weeks.

CONFEREES ARRIVING AT TENTATIVE TERMS

Withdrawal of Case Now Before U. S. Supreme Court Is Main Point.

REPEAL OF ADAMSON LAW ALSO OBJECTIVE

Congress May Be Asked to Annul Act Forced by the President.

Pourfold are the means through which be big four brotherhoods and the railoperators are striving to adjust their differences so that working conditions acceptable to both may be determined. Progress toward a compromise already has been made, as W. G. Lee, ident of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, disclosed in Evansville, Ind., Friday. The steps may culminate in settlement within the next two weeks, it was learned yesterday.

Here are the methods through which he factions hope to attain their common

i. Withdrawal of the case now be-fore the United States Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the Adamson eight hour law.

2. Repeal by Congress of this measure, which was forced through by direct command of President Wilson.

3. Elimination of the Federal Board Mediation and Conciliation in rail-Med controversies.

4. Establishment of a non-partisan

allroad board, composed equally of brotherhood representatives and op-erators for the adjudication of all difficulties in wages, schedules and

## Conferences Here This Week.

Conferences between the brotherhood beads and several members of the National Conference Committee of Managers will be held, probably in New York, this week. The fate of the entire negotiations hangs on these forthcoming meetings. No certainty is felt by either side that a settlement will be effected.

That the prothchood men are ontimistic.

A Flatbush avenue car broke its axie

-the employees and the employers— and there waited for a Seventh avenue from his finger.

somebody is going to work it out for us and it will not be acceptable to either But all these cars were operating un-

subject, but it is evident they are keenly intent on some solution that will be esched by experts. Neither side has decision or a superseding act of Congress will produce harmonious cooperation beseen the employees and the operators.

## Discord Over Eight Hour Bill.

it has been appreciated by both sides lines, that there has been increasing discord service ever since the enactment of the Adam-Both sides contend the measthe methods of its operation. There is come disgusted with conditions." unanimity of opinion too that the decision of the Supreme Court will not WHEAT IN SENSATIONAL RISE. cure this defect.

It was these definite beliefs that led to be conference betweeen the railroad men and the national committee. The brother-

vantages would accrue with the decision.

Therefore it was the consensus of opinion at the conferences that already of \$ cents net. courts can adjust matters so am and with such mutual profit as the con-tenders themselves—on a friendly basis.

Mr. Lee of the trainmen has gone on record several times as dissatisfied with the Adamson law. It is understood the brotherhoods offered to give up the law if the railroads would guarantee to withdraw court action and grant an From what has been the eight hour day if a compromise on

Wages is effected thereby.

Both sides are doubtful whether the Martine of New Jersey. raued long and ardently on the justice argued long and ardently on the justice and equity of the measure. To get their consent to what amounts practically to a repudiation is contemplated as a difficult proceeding. However, mutual representations to Congress of a better adjustment will bring about this result, it is hoped. Automatically the repeal of the law would end the test case.

Congress May Act Piret. The expectation obtains on both sides of the railroad controversy that the present Congress may be induced to act in advance of the decision of the Supreme Court, which is expected about the midde of January.

The factions have looked beyond the repeal and the withdrawal of the suit—

Continued on Touth Page.

## **NO OLD ENGINE HOME FOR ERIE'S VETERANS**

Railroad Hiring Out Locomotives to Make Power for Plant.

The Eric Railroad has discovered a use for its iocomotives. Residents of Arlington, N. J., rushing to catch their trains yesterday at the station of the Greenwood Lake division of the Eric, were halted by the spectacle of two decrepit engines beiching smoke and cinders, but never turning a wheel. Firemen stoked away in desperation, as if the ancient locomotives were making sixty nules an hour instead of standing stock still.

Explanation of the strange annies of the old locomotives, was obtained when it was learned that from the boiler of each of the engines there was a pipe leading to the steam main of the Arlington Company's plant, only a few rods away. The Arlington Company, which is a subsidiary of the Du Pont company, and is engaged in the manufacture of a substance resembling celluloid, has short of power recently. One of the officials suggested renting Eric locomotives. The proposal was put up to the Eric with the result that the two engines were taken down to the Arlington Company's plant and put to work.

# **HEALTH BOARD ACTS** TO CURB CAR JAMS

Order Limits Passengers to One and One-half Times Seating Capacity.

crowding on all the transit lines, subway. elevated and surface, the Health Department yesterday adopted an order providing that no car shall be permitted to carry more than one and one-half times its seating capacity. The order, however, contains a qualifying clause which exempts lines on which the Public Service Commission has fixed the maximum number of cars to be operated.

If the company can show it is giving its maximum service, it can continue to crowd as many passengers into a car as can be jammed in.

can be jammed in.

Haven Emerson, Health Commissioner, announced the adoption of the order following a visit yesterday to Mayor Mitchel at City Hall. When the Mayor was asked about the new rule, he said:

"It must be distinctly understood that this order will not apply, should the Public Service Commission decide that a spection." "It must be distinctly understood that this order will not apply should the Pub-lic Service Commission decide that a specified line is operating the maximum number of cars. In other words, it would be out of the question for the Health De-

That the brotherhood men are optimistic is made manifest by the statement of W. S. Lee, who said:

"We hope to work it out. We know to walk. They tramped through the that if we don't work it out for ourselves snow to Flatbush and Seventh avenues.

But all these cars were operating un-But all these cars were operating un-ber the new rule and the conductors re-"Grab him," yelled Engelson from his der the new rule and the conductors re-Railroad managers are reticent on the fused to break it. An equally angry proside of the store. "He's probably in ubject, but it is evident they are keenly cession came along Seventh avenue, cahoots with the little curs that slugged

avenue subway station.

The Public Service Commission yesterday received a petition signed by the teachers of Public School 188, who use discord service and the manner in which passenare jammed into the cars during of 397 persons, who say they "have be-

Up 1014 Cents a Bu. After Drop of 13% Cents Day Before.

hoods have no wish to remain in pro-ionsed conflict with the employers and the managers appreciate their earnins to-day. An upward jump of 10½ cents CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—The wheat market capacity is reduced by disaffection a bushel came as a violent contrast to a sendack of 13½ cents in the trading of the day before.

Right from the outset the fact was

torious side. With the bitterness that apparent that sentiment in the pit had this would engender each element expects reprisals would be begun.

apparent that sentiment in the pit had undergone a complete reversal from the day before Wild rushes to buy started were the railroads to win, for instance, the decision would not prevent the brotherhoods from immediate declaration of a strike. Were the brotherhoods to gain the verdict they believe the operators would apply methods to prevent which the operators would apply methods to prevent the operators would apply methods to prevent the operators would apply methods to prevent the operators would apply methods to gain the verdict they believe the operators would apply methods to give the instant the opening gong struck and were wholly unchecked until the rise had were wholl posal without comment. Final quotations were greatly unset-ed, May, the leading option, finishing 162% to 163, the latter an advance

## "DRY" BILL HAS ONE MAJORITY. Martine Objects to Agreement for

Vote in Senate. WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 .- The Senate by a bare majority of one took up the Shep-pard "dry" bill for the District of Columbia this afternoon. Friends of the bill were surprised and chagrined by the narrow margin. Efforts to obtain an agreement for a vote Monday were de-

consent of President Wilson or Congress

Senator Martine made an impassioned appeal for a "wet" capital, saying the The President and his Democratic Consaloon should not be abolished until some other form of club for the poor man could be established. said, with a population of less than 2,000,000, has more drunkenness than whole of Italy, with a population of 30,000,000 and no prohibition laws.

## CAR STRIKE TO CONTINUE.

Seven Unions.

Members of the seven local unions af niliated with the Amalgamated Associa-tion of Street and Electric Railway Em-ployes voted yearerday to continue the strike against the traction companies. Only fifty-sight votes were cast in fa-

MAYANA REACHED IN SA HOURS via Allastic Coast Line R.R. 1188 B'way.-46v.

# GEM THIEVES STIR 5TH AVE.

Shopping Crowds Witness Country Districts Line Up Eyewitness Tells of Nie-Fights for Possession of Jewels.

Two Men Provide Few Min- Traffic Conditions Make Oper- Deported Without a Chance to utes of Thrills in Two Stores.

Christmas shoppers in two crowded Udall & Ballou, 574 Fifth avenue, by pre-

The prisoner, locked up at Police Headquarters last night, said he was Harry Osmonde, 23 years old, a salesman, of 217 Grandy street, Detroit.

At 4:30 P. M. a tall man and a short man, both well dressed, appeared in the Reiman store, which is near Thirty-third street. The short man told Daniel B. Engelson, a clerk, that he wanted to look at bracelets set with diamonds. Engelson Reiman store, which is near Thirty-third apparently is actuated by ideas of construct. The short man told Daniel B. competently is actuated by ideas of construction on the congested traffic of Manhattan. laid on the counter several gold bands.
"The stones are too small," the customer objected. "Let's see some rings something extra good, with big dia-

## The Kind He Wanted.

The clerk got three rings from a show window and set them on the showcase. The short stranger fingered them, held them up to the light and pushed them back—that is, he pushed two of them back—and remarked:

"That's the kind of stone I want.
Now haven't you a bracelet with dia-

Now haven't you a bracelet with diamonds as large as these."

But Engelson had his eye on that third ring. The customer had his left arm resting on the showcase and the

store never saw such commotion before. Meanwhile the tall young man had been standing at an opposite counter rying on diamond rings which Harry Horowitz, a clerk, was showing him. When the roughhouse began he had three rings on one finger and was appraising decided that the company is already run-ning a maximum number."
Thousands of persons in Brooklyn yes-terday experienced the disadvantages of edging toward the street door.

forced to walk because of the overload-ing prohibition. So the Brooklynites had "A policeman," choring prohibition. So the Brooklynites had "A policeman, get a policeman," che to continue their tramp to the Atlantic used the other cierks and customers. "Yes, sir; there ought to be a police-man here," yelled the short man. "Wait, I'll go get one." With that he shot out

into the avenue. Everybody was too exited to realize that it might be The short man disappeared, but presently a patrolman in uniform, called by somebody else, did enter Reiman's. The

tall man was blazing with indignation and affronted citizenship. He wanted to know what the clerk meant by treating him as if he could be a thief. There being no evidence against him, no compiaint was made.

Half an hour later Detectives McKenna and Cassassa, scouting for pick-

ockets, happened along. They drank in the story at Reiman's and hurried out to warn other jewellers. At 5:30 o'clock Ballou's store, which is near Forty-seventh street, and were told there was a ight and a robbery going on inside.

The detectives wedged into the store and ran against Roswell D. Udall, whose fingers were entwined with another nan's coat collar.

"Two man, one short, the other tall——" began Mr. Udall. "Uh-huh," commented Cassassa. "We've heard of 'em before. Go on." Well, the tall man and the short one had come into the store and the short one had got Mr. Udali to show him dia-mond rings—"pretty good stuff with large stones" was what he wanted to see.

ring set with a diamond weighing to a ring set with a diamond weighing to a ring set with a diamond weighing to a tainers could get under way."

There is nothing, however, in the findalowed the man to examine the ring.

The tail man all this time had been which would indicate that the committee approach set in the short case. sauntering along beside the show cases as if waiting for something to strike his fancy. Finally he said to Mr. Udail, "There's a ring that like. Will you let work and of the resultant delays, me look at it, please?" The jeweller, keeping one hand on the tray that he had got out for the short man, bent utes to transmit 1,000 pounds of mail is deem to get his other hand into the down to get his other hand into the absolutely unwarranted, and that the show case. Just as he did so the short actual time is less than twenty minutes show case. Just as he did so the short actual time is less than twenty minutest man with the \$4,500 ring in his possession ran out of the store. Mr. Udall instantly waded into the tall stranger, alleging them to be untrue and based ounched him, collared him and was ex-pressing his opinion of him when the de-

ectives appeared. Clerk Horowitz of the Reiman store went to Police Headquarters last night and identified the prisoner as the chap who had put three rings on one finger "I don't know that short man who got away with the ring." he told the police. "His acts are incomprehensible

police. "His acts are incomprehensible to me."
Osmonde is charged with grand lar-ceny on the complaint of Mr. Udali.

at White Suipher Springs, West Virginia.

# FIGHT ON MAIL SAW BELGIANS NO PEACE, WILSON'S VIEW;

Against Cities on Deliveries.

\$4,500 RING WAS STOLEN SERIOUS IN NEW YORK MEN PACKED IN TRAIN

ation of 450 Motor Trucks a Great Hazard.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16. - A stirring Fifth avenue jewelry stores lost their fight, turning largely upon the point breath yesterday afternoon while wit- whether the United States Government nessing the theft, or attempted theft, of is to contribute to the traffic congestion diamond rings and bracelets by two in New York city, is inevitable when the spondent has obtained the following eyeyoung men who posed as customers. House Post Office Committee bill reduc- witness story of the slave raid. The There were rough and tumble fights in ing the pneumatic tube service in New story was given out on the authority of each place and thrills enough for a movie York city and authorizing the Postmas. the Belgian Government: melodrama. One of the robbers escaped ter-General to discontinue it altogether

> tervenes. The contention of Mr. Burleson that the mails can be handled with greater celerity by automobile is disputed by commercial organizations and Postmas-ter Morgan. The Post Office Department

question has become much broader than a mere dispute over the advantage of pneumatic tube service. The delegations from the East and the large cities are for the most part against the abolition of the tubes. The dele-gations from the South and the country districts apparently are for it. The situation has developed into a contest be-tween those who are against the big cities, particularly the Eastern cities, and those who are for them. The mem-bers of the House committee who vote i to abolish the tubes were Moon (Tennessee), Cox (Indiana), Black (Texas), Blackmon (Alabama), Ruse (Ken-tucky), Ayres (Kansas), Randall (Cali-

tucky), Ayres (Kansas), Randall (California), Britt (North Carolina), and Holland (Virginia).

The disastrous effects of the abandonment of the tube service were set forth by Postmaster Morgan, who said the New York office would be obliged to have three times the present number of motor mail trucks, or 450. Inspector Thomas Myers, head of the New York traffic squad, told the committee that in point of danger to pedestrians a mail truck complicated the traffic situation as much as ten commercial trucks.

## Speed Laws Are Ignored.

Inspector Myers told the committee \$20,000 Spent for Night Letters by tions, rushing in the wrong direction up the one way street. "Commercial trucks," he said, "are governed by a signal from the traffic men and they are ready to obey because they know they will be summoned if they don't. But not the mail truck driver."

Cardinal Gibbons.

Baltimore, Mr., Dec. 16.—More than 10,000 telegraph night letters appealing for contributions of "at least a dollar" to detray the cost of a new recreation building at St. Mary's Industrial School summoned if they don't. But not the mail truck driver." mail truck driver."

to affect their decision.

be no adequate substitute service

## Contention of Commission.

The commission of postal experts upon whose report the Postmaster-General's to warn other lewellers. At a soft with they ran into a crowd in front of Udali recommendation was based, admitted the Ballou's store, which is near Forty-advantage the tubes possessed in being seventh street, and were told there was a free from surface traffic congestion. Some of the reasons they alleged for rec-ommending their abolition were the fact that owing to their limited capacity of containers, not all classes of mail could be carried, the necessity of relaying sta-tions and general inflexibility of the ser-

vice. On this point the report said : "For example, if 1,000 pounds of letter mail is received on one train for the main office, a sufficient number of clerks may be assigned to its distribution to prepare it quickly for dispatch by pneumatic tubes, but the capacity of the tube is inflexible and fifty minutes will clapse be fore the container with the last portion of such quantity of mail is despatched. The jeweller produced a case containing twenty-four rings. The case had a spring arrangement whereby the rings could be released one at a time by the pressure of buttons.

"There's one that makes a hit with of the attenuated column of tube corp. "If the distance to be traversed is one

on prejudice.

DENVER, Dec. 16.—Col. William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) is seriously ill at the home of his sister. Mrs. May Cody Devker, 2932 Lafayette street, according to his physician, Dr. J. H. Eastol. Cody spent a bad night last night and it is understood that members of his family have here summoned from his family have been summoned from his ranch at

SEABOARD FLA. LIMITED, 6:20 P. M. Com. Jan. 3 ar. Palm Beach, 6:30 A. M. Mismt 8:00 A. M. 23 more. 3 hrs. quickest to Helisair and 8t, Petersburg, Ing. Scaboard Air Line Ry., 1184 B'dway.—Adv.

# TUBES BITTER DRIVEN IN HERD

velles Raid and the Use of Force.

Get Their Clothes-No Warning Given.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. Davignon, son of the late Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs. THE SUN corre-

"The deportation of men from the with a \$4,500 ring from the store of after six months comes up in Congress. Nievelles district, southwest of Brussels, The Postmaster-General has recom- was fixed by the German officials for mended that pneumatic service be distanced by the solution and the service be distanced by the service by the service be distanced by the servic names, but all men between 18 and 55 were surrounded by soldiers and were forced to march on, together with a hundred railway officials, include members of the administrative staff. "In ranks of three they went. including lowed by weeping women and children. Soldiers lined the roads and an every doorstep were women and children, who, filled with anguish and despair, looked sity students and landlords were taken

or all the victims of the raid the most downcast was M. Gobert, a painter, the father of eleven children, whom the German's deported with his cliest two sons.

The tricolar has been cartied almost to the point from which it waved before the German's began their opponent who has proclaimed himself. eight men were pushed into each train waved before the Germans began their compartment and were locked in. There was a rush of women, many of whom

the train and handed everything in their

"Traffic has increased to such an extent." he said, "in the last few years that we have him awake nights thinking for luncheon and many old men who about it. I want to say now we are to the last ownce in the last few years are to be locked in the compartments immediate immediate immediate which is such as a locked in the compartments immediate immediate which is the last few years are to be locked in the compartments immediate immediate with the greatest demonstration of extent which is a solonity thanks from Rumania, was reported in the compartments immediate immediate the compartments immediately and the population of the last few years are to be locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the last few years are to be locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the last few years are to be locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the last few years are to be locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the locked in the compartments immediately and the population of the locked in the compartments immediately and the locked in t about it. I want to say new we are to were yet is be examined were left in the last ounce in the matter of regula- the streets for three hours. Meanwhile

Cardinal Gibbons. mail truck driver."

The committee was told that in 1915 day by the local Western Union Tele-102 children under 6 years of age and 179 between 6 and 16 were killed in New This deluge of night letter appeals, a

ork by automobiles. This did not seem of affect their decision.

Apart from the disadvantages to busions and Brother Faul, director of Stors institutions Postmaster Morgan accentuated the difficulties motor trucks will encounter in winter.

"The tube rervice is not affected by storms," he said. "The motor service becomes badly crippled during a sleet or delivered to-day will be sent out to-showstorm, and in the event of the discontinuance of the pneumatic tubes there would be no adoquate substitute and the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there would be no adoquate substitute and the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there would be no adoquate substitute and the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there would be no adoquate substitute and the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there would be no adoquate substitute and the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there would be no adoquate substitute and the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there would be no adoquate substitute and the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there would be no adoquate substitute and the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there would be no adoquate substitute and the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there were not continuance of the pneumatic tubes there were not to substitute the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there were not continuance of the pneumatic tubes the continuance of the pneumatic tubes there were not continuance of the pneumatic tubes there were not continuance of the pneumatic tubes the not continuance of the pneumatic tubes the not continuance of the pneumatic tubes there were not continuance of th

## WEALTHY TO FOIL BURGLARS. Vincent Astor Heads Protective

Society in Hudson Estates. Poughkeepsir, Dec. 16 .- Wealthy res-

idents of this district, in fear of bur-glars, have organized the Upper Hudson Protective Society, which filed articles of incorporation to-day.

Among the men in the organization are Vincent Astor, Robert P. Hunting-ton, Frederick Vanderbilt, William II. Dissmore and John R. Rossevelt. The directors are Warren Delano of Tarry. directors are Warren Delano of Tarry-Col. Archibald Rogers of Hyde Tracy Dows of Rhinebeck, Herman Livingston of Greendale and Thomas Hunt of Ciermont.

The sole purpose of the organization to guard the homes of its members burglars. Arrangements have been made for two private detectives to

# Negotiations Are Begun, Says the

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The Liverpool Post says there is no doubt that negotiations are proceeding for a settlement of the Irish question and that the two principal

negotiators are well known. The newspaper says the critical attithe Government, for the creation which Sir Edward Carson, First Lord of the Admiralty in the new Cabinet and leader of the Ulster Untonists, has had some responsibility, would make him more cager to effect a genuine compromise and would induce him to unce Uster friends to adopt a more moderate

## AIR-UNDERSEA MAIL ROUTE. Card From Chicago Goes to Breme by Airplane and U-Boat.

Bentan (by wireless), Dec. 16 .- The Zeitung am Mittag publishes a message despatched on a postcard from Chicago on November 2 and just received in Ber-liu. The card was carried from Chicago to New York by airplane and to Bremen

Southern Railway for All Points South-6 trains daily from New York: slopping and disting our service. N. Y. Office, 251 Patth av. —Adv.

## FRENCH CLINCH VICTORY **RUSSIA A UNIT** Hold Gain of Seven Miles and More Along Entire Verdun Front.

CAPTURE 9,000 MEN FROM CROWN PRINCE

LONDON, Dec. 16.-Through Viscount Gen. Nivelle's Brilliant Stroke Took Germans by Surprise.

> SEIZE OR DESTROY 81 BIG GUNS OF ENEMY

Tricolor Now Near Where Teutons Began Drive Last February.

dazedly at the passing slaves. At the Delcroix factory surgeons examined the master stroke against the German line men and the unit were sent back to were more than maintained to-day. yesterday as a result of Gen. Nivelle's made between the employed and the unemployed. Men of industry, traders, seven miles, held intact in the face of masters of workshops, farmers, universtry singlest, and head trade of the character of a sensational act of publicity calculated to prepossess the neutral Powers. Beyond this it does not away together.

"Of all the victims of the raid the most intrenched on the conquered ground

was a rush of women, many of whom succeeded in getting hear the factory, but the soldiers brutally dispersed them. Many of the men who had been called up never imagined that they would be deported at once. They had come without food or suitable clothing and sat in the train shivering from the cold. This moved their more fortunate fellow citizens who had been exempted. Those who had taken to the factory handbags and warm clothes rushed to the train and handed everything in their.

According to the official French responsible to the Crown Prince lost nearly 3,000 men in prisoners and eighty-one guns are known to have been captured or destroyed, with the enumeration of the war material yet to be completed. The adjective "crushing," used in describing the effect of the day's fighting on the Kaiser's army, appears more nearly to tell the story than any other which could have been chosen. According to the official French re-

Paris is wildly enthusiastic to-night The news of the Verdun victory, compossession to the deportees.

"Meanwhile more cars were coming up ing as a most welcome relief from the and group after strong disappeared, to be locked in the compariments immediwhich the population

edging toward the street door.

Seizes the Tall Man.

"Hold on," called Horowitz. "Just take off those rings first." Horowitz raced around the counter, clutched the

Since the great stroke when the blood soaked ruins of Port Vaux and Douau-mont fell once more into the hands of the French Gen. Nivelle had been quietly preparing to push his advantage by an attack on a larger scale. As to how well he prepared yesterday's results are in evidence. Men and gues had been assembled, shells piled and everything was in complete readiness for the commander when he should see his oppor-

# Blow Fell Like Thunderbolt.

And Gen. Nivelle struck at the psycheogical moment. thunderbolt. The terrific artillery preparation flattened the German defences. aration flattened the terman detences, portant for the maintenance of cohesion after which the guns, now clevated, threw and unity, the immemorial constitution of curtain of steel as a shield for the in- of the empire is being shaken severely fairry, which dashed from every trench by mysterious and irresponsible influence of cohesion after which the guns, now clevated, threw and unity, the immemorial constitution of the empire is being shaken severely by mysterious and irresponsible influence of cohesion after which the guns, now clevated, threw and unity, the immemorial constitution of the empire is being shaken severely by mysterious and irresponsible influence of cohesion actions. stunned by the unexpected bombardment. the state." In roots the Germans made a gallant
In roots the Germans made a gallant
effort to hold their ground. In some
instances the defence was worthy of a
more favorable outcome. But so skilmore favorab were powerless to stem the tide even tlons, but responsible only to the mon-momentarily.

momentarily.

The fall, in rapid succession, of Va-cherauville and Louvemont villages, the Chambrette farm and the Hardaumont and Fezonvaux works was effected be-fore the defenders had time to carry away either guns or material, and prisoners in a steady stream pressed rear-ward to pens which had been prepared for their reception. According to all hitherto accepted no-

wards for the apprehension of burglars, tions the weather was all against the offensive. The day was wet and misty, and this fact, the French officers believe, and this fact, the French officers believe, led the Germans to miscalculate the probability of an attack. The wretched onditions did not prevent even the aviation corps from rendering valuable aid to the armies on the ground. The services of the airmen are thought to have had an important bearing on the fact that the French losses were almost amuzingly small.

### Official French Bulletin. The bulletin issued by the 'Var Office

to-night follows: On the right bank of the Meuse our troops continued their success. They progressed in the Caurieres Wood and captured the village of Bezonvaux yes-terday. At the close of the day a vio-lent German attack directed against or position on Cote du Poivre (Pen per Hill) was brought up short by our

We have maintained in its entirety our new front. Prisoners continue to be brought back, the number exceeding 9,000, of whom 250 are officers. The enumeration of the material which has fallen into our hands has not yet been completed, but the computation shows that up to the present eighty-one suns have been taken or destroyed.

The usual cannonade has occurred on the test of the front.

The French War Office's statement, as Continued on Third Page,

Continued on Third Page,

The continued on Third Page,

# President Transmits German Proposal Without AGAINST PEACE

Foreign Office Declares the Nation Ready for Greater Sacrifices.

PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 16 .- A further exposition of the Russian Gov- ernment Is Willing to Disernment's attitude toward the German peace proposal is contained in the following statement obtained by the Associated Press from the Russian Foreign Office :

"A complete and emphatic rejection by Russia of Germany's offer can hardly have been necessary to convince America and other neutrals of the attitude which the Allies will take toward Germany's insincere and theatric peace proposal Germany's wish to impress the neutral Rejection of Berlin Overnations must have failed through the very nature of the proposal and the transparency of the motives which in-spired it.

"The nation honestly desirous of com-

Paris, Dec. 16.—The great gains made by the French troops at Verdun been transmitted to the Powers concerned.

## "A Dictated Peace."

"The German declaration has the a violent attack by the Teutons and merit serious consideration. What the enemy suggests is a peace dictated by her and in accordance with the very will not entertain the German proposal ideas which the Allies are fighting to that the President is maintaining a pol-

opponent who has proclaimed himself the victor. The rejection of Germany's proposal in no sense places Russia in the position of a nation not desirous of a durable peace or insensible to the urgent necessity of rescuing Europe from the calamity which has cast its shadow over the entire world. But Russia will continue to suffer this ca-lamity and add indefinitely to the sacrifices which she has already made rather than submit to the greater catastrophe threatened by German imperial ambi-

"What Russia, in common with her allies, desires is not a destroyed Ger-many but the final defeat of these am-thorized the following statement: ctions of German domination, Germany desires a fair and lasting peace Russia will be disposed to consider the time ripe for peace negotia-

## Nobles Follow Duma.

A resolution adopted by the Congress of Nobles, containing, like the earlier formulas of the Duma and the Council his selection as commander in chief a formulas of the Duma and the Council few days ago it has been dissipated ut-terly. His almost unparalleled success of the influences which have become is accepted as a splendid augury for the conveniently known as "dark forces," and cannot at present be more specificalin the activity which came just before by defined, is one of the most important ness of the Entenne to discuss the sub-

complete unanimity.

The German peace proposal, which has given Russia the opportunity for emphatic repudiation of rumors which had

Any counter peace terms the Enter been spread abroad without the slightest support in the sentiment of the nation itself, and the appointment of a new Foreign Minister who is not uncongenial t that the Government has acquired new

Nobles' Resolution. The Congress of Nobles resolution said "The associations of nobility, faithful from time immemorial to their sover-else, record with deep regret that at this The blow fell like a solemn and historic time, when the prin-ter territe artillery preparation of immarchies are especially im-the therman defences, portant for the maintenance of cohesion uns, now elevated, threw and unity, the immemorial constitution

The resolution further says that power should be vested in the Prime Minister and that 'only such a government can assure a final victory which the conscience of the country can-not accept peace."

## DUMA'S HEAD TALKS. Rodzianko Tella Why Peace Offer In Unacceptable.

London, Dec. 16,-Michael Rodzianko President of the Duma, according to Reuter's Petrograd correspondent, gave the following reasons why Germany's peace proposals should not be accepted:
"The enemy proposes peace in circumstances which are exceptionally advantageous to him. He claims to be the conqueror. We cannot trust our adversary. He is a worn out felon who seeks not lasting peace but a temporary armistics n order to recuperate before making fresh ouslaught on the Allies with greater violence than ever.

fresh ouslaught on the Allies with greater violence than ever.

"In the second place, we are united to our allies by indissoluble fies, by common sacrifice, by blood which has been shed. Our object is suppression of German militarism. We desire that the world shall be able to live free from the threat of the German fist on the basis of right, freedom and equity. We shall agree to negotiate only when the enemy is finally beaten. In concert with our valiant allies we shall sign a peace which shall guarantee peace to the whole world. This is the solution of the hist toric problems which will repay in fer what we have suffered.

"We any just mutual method that he but asked his Government for authority to make this suggestion offic all that he but asked his Government for authority to make this suggestion of he all the mote stated his Government for authority to make this suggestion of he all the for authority to make this suggestion of head to be required to regard the fine opportune.

In transmitting the Gorman proposal to Great British through to be simply sets forth that Germany by simply sets forth that the mote is simply sets forth that the note from German field the proposal to Great British Government by Austria-Hintship Government by Austria-Hints

Any Indorsement. BERNSTORFF HASTENS

TO LANSING'S OFFICE

Ambassador Says His Govcuss Disarmament.

SWISS AND SPANISH FOLLOW U. S. LEAD

ture Considered More Probable.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 .- The peace proposal of Germany and the Central Powers was despatched this afternoon to the Entente belligerents by the United States Government. President Wilson has added no endorsement of supplemental comment.

It is only because the President be lieves Great Britain and the Enterior will not entertain the German proposal icy of alcofness which preserves the role of spectator for the United States. News that the President, for the pres-

ent at least, would not be directly identifled with the German proposal was followed this morning by a visit to the State Department by Count von Bern-storff, the German Ambassador. The Ambassador was naturally concerned and desired at once to obtain this information officially from Secretary information officially from Secretary Lansing so that he could notify his Gove

Ambasador's Statement. After a ten minute conference with

We did not discuss peace term any way. I have not received and official terms, and the American Government knows officially that no tomal terms have been promoted Germany has suggested is that it beliggerents get together and talk. It that proposal is necessed definite terror naturally will be discussed, but and then it would not be proper to mention them. My visit to the Secretary was purely for general discussion.

The Ambassador indicated that the holding of a conference at The Hague of had been achieved earlier in the day appears to have been emphasized. The ofclief Paris report asserts that a violent
therman attack directed against the
French position on Pepper Hill was
hrought short by the fire of the defendThis pronouncement by one of the
collect and most conservative elements
of the empire, it is pointed out, has definitely brought the whole country into
complete unanimity.

The German peace proposal, which has

pet at all. If the conference is hold
Germany stands ready to give the lintente a full statement of terms, the Aubassador said. At the same time Germany is ready to discuss disarmanness,
creation of a league to guarantee permanent peace and kindred subjects that ject at all. If the conference is Germany stands ready to give the

### might wish to propose would also receive consideration

Waiting on Lloyd George. the Duma, have combined to relieve the Now that it has been made clear that political tension and has led to the belief President Wilson will not for the present be identified with the German peace proposal the next move anxiously awaited in German circles is the outline of Great Britain's attitude which is ex-Parliament next Tuesday. The vital question is: "Will Great Britain closes the door to even a general discussion of peace and announce in advance that the Entente will reject the derman offer to

'talk peace'. Petrograd and Paris Indicated that it a will be the case, but German diploma has not yet given up hope Entente agrees to talk peace at all the way will be paved for bringing the war to an end, it is felt in tierman circles, It is only a flat rejection to talk on any basis that the Imperial Government

ments will flatly reject even the suggestion of peace at the present time has been greatly strengthened within the last forty-eight hours in Entente diplo-matic circles here. These diplomatic he-lieve that President Wilson's "hands off" policy will be taken in the Entente capitals as an indication that the t nied

## States has not been imprecised by "the spectacular German move."

To Follow America's Lead. It is learned today that the Spanis Ambassador and the Swiss Minister have advised the United States that the Covernments will follow the lead of the United States with regard to the attitude neutral Governments will take toward the German offer. Before the President had decided on his course of netion or a of the neutral diplomats suggested to Secretary Lansing the propriety of neu-tral Governments virtually going on reord now as indersing—in general terms
—the effort to end the war.
This diplomat intimated that he had

get confidential information as to the